

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 /022 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:IPERNICK:AVW

APPROVED BY S/PRS:RLFUNSETH

S/S-O:P.JOHNSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 057246

TOSEC 489

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJECT: DEPT PRESS BRIEFING, MARCH 13, 1975

NO. 21

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

TODAY'S BRIEFING WAS TAKEN UP PRINCIPALLY BY QUESTIONS ON CAMBODIAN SITUATION, ESPECIALLY HFAC DEFEAT OF HAMILTON AMENDMENT PROPOSING \$82.5 MILLION (VICE \$222 MILLION) IN AID AND WITH TERMINAL DATE OF JUNE 30. THERE WAS ALSO INTEREST IN ALLEGED PLO THREAT TO STRIKE AGAINST ISRAELI FACILITIES OVERSEAS, INCLUDING WITHIN THE U.S. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF ACTING SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSES:

1. CAMBODIA: ON HFAC ACTION, FUNSETH STATED AMONG VOTES TAKEN WAS ONE TO DEFER ACTION ON ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST UNTIL NEXT WEEK. THEREFORE, ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST IS STILL BEFORE THE CONGRESS AND WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT CONGRESS WILL ACT POSITIVELY ON URGENTLY NEEDED ASSISTANCE FOR CAMBODIA. HE DECLINED TO PROVIDE ESTIMATE OF SITUATION ON GROUND AS IT IS FAST-MOVING AND WIDELY REPORTED. HOWEVER, IF GKR RECEIVES CONTINUED ASSISTANCE, IT HAS A

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CHANCE; IF NOT, ITS CHANCES ARE GRAVELY JEOPARDIZED.

2. PLO THREAT: USG TAKES ALL SUCH THREATS VERY SERIOUSLY. WHILE DECLINING TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF ANY SPECIFIC MEASURES TAKEN, FUNSETH STATED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW IT IS USG SOVEREIGN RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT OFFICIAL FOREIGN GUESTS AND OFFICIAL FOREIGN INSTALLATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE OF ISRAEL. U.S. TAKES THIS RESPONSIBILITY VERY SERIOUSLY AND IS VERY VIGILANT IN CARRYING IT OUT.

3. PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS: CONFIRMED THAT AZORES STILL CAN BE USED BY U.S. SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT. FUNSETH REPEATED WHAT HE SAID EARLIER THIS WEEK ON STATE OF PORTUGUESE NEGOTIATIONS AND ON SPANISH BASE TALKS ENDING TODAY.

SUBSEQUENT TO BRIEFING, WE PRESS RELEASED JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON COMPLETION OF FOURTH ROUND OF SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS. FIFTH ROUND WILL BEGIN APRIL 2 IN MADRID.

4. NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENTS, SAFEGUARDS AND NPT: IN AFTERNOON, WE POSTED A GENERAL RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON MARCH 7 ON U.S. POLICIES ON THIS SUBJECT. IN ESSENCE RESPONSE STATES THAT NOT ALL EXISTING NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENTS ARE IDENTICAL; BUT A TYPICAL PROVISION IS THAT REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL FROM REACTORS SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN FACILITIES THAT ARE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES UPON A JOINT DETERMINATION THAT SAFEGUARDS MAY BE EFFECTIVELY APPLIED. WHERE REPROCESSING TAKES PLACE REMAINS TO BE DECIDED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SUPPLYING AND RECEIVING COUNTRIES. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE057246
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IPERNICK:AVW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750088-1123
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750349/aaaabrue.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2004 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPT PRESS BRIEFING, MARCH 13, 1975 NO. 21
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: ASWAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006